



ASSOCIATION

GALLERY NOTES

August • September 1997

PO Box 222 • 90 LYME STREET • OLD LYME, CT 06371

Ballinger Nominated for President

After serving for nearly a decade as LAA's Secretary and executive committee member, Joann Ballinger, a pastel and oil painter, received the unanimous nod of the Nominating Committee as the presidential nominee. Also nominated were Donna Gilberto for Vice President, Shirely Cean Youngs as Treasurer, and Dan Truth as Secretary. "It's a very stable slate of artists committed to the success of the Lyme Art Association," said Ballinger. "We are an open leadership team and an administration committed to the nurturing of American Representational art. We are very aware of our century long commitment to the traditions of excellence in the arts and making art accessible to the community. We intend to lead LAA in the same positive direction started by the fine leadership of Donna Gilberto. We hope to complete repairs of the skylights before winter, plan for a second fund raising effort for future needs, and welcome our members and friends to spend more time painting and sculpting at the LAA and in our own studios," explained Ballinger.

"We are totally committed to bringing in positive change, while enabling our artist members to be more active leaders at the LAA and still have time to paint or sculpt."

"Our new executive director, Merja Lehtinen, has helped us manage information so we can plan for a sound, stable financial future of promoting the arts, artist works, and educating the public on American Representational art. We hope with Merja's help to have the Gallery season be a year-round experience beginning in 1998," said Ballinger.

The election of officers will be held Friday, September 19th at the LAA, 90 Lyme Street. A pot-luck dinner is planned for 7 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish.

Changing Times

by Donna Gilberto

We started the summer with many changes at the LAA and the changes haven't stopped. Add those to changes at home, and one recalls the Chinese proverb about "change means you will live in interesting times." But all things change, and those that do not change get left behind. Change can be good, if it is managed, and we are managing our change so that it meets our goals and objectives for the LAA.

What has not changed is our commitment to and pursuit of excellence in our juried shows at the LAA. We had an exceptionally successful Spring Exhibition. This year we sold 12 works and were featured favorable in newspaper reviews by *The Day* and other publications.

We would like to hear from you on what you think the LAA should be, and how we as the leadership can better meet your needs as members. As members, we are the "customers" of the Association. And as leaders of the Association, my team wants to meet your needs and make sure you are satisfied!

I would like to start by having you read the bylaws and letting me know what changes you think need to be made to better suit these changing times. We will be hosting bylaw committee meetings to discuss just that. I hope you will make every effort to get to at least one meeting to express your views as I firmly believe the bylaws should be a document that changes all the time to reflect our changing organization.

GALLERY NOTES

Our bi-monthly publication is for, about and by LAA members and supportive bystanders.

AUGUST • SEPTEMBER CONTRIBUTORS
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THE BRIDGE

from Start ...

Much has been made of the symbolism implicit in building bridges, through political rhetoric and literary metaphor; and yet the fact remains that a bridge connects people and places in a very real way. Long in the planning and swift in the framing, we may wax poetic or simply carry ourselves over the footpath that unites the origin of our legacy with the enduring mission of our founders. The Lyme Art Association and the Florence Griswold Museum, through the generosity of Essex Savings Bank, are once again united by something as simple as a bridge that crosses the brook that bounded the property Miss Florence contributed to her artist friends.

Legend has it that such a bridge existed at the inception of the Lyme Art Association and yet no known photo commemorates it and no painter ever seems to have painted it. We can only imagine the musings of one taking the short cut along the path over half a century ago, coming or going from the gallery, stopping momentarily to acknowledge the light on wildflowers gracing the banks of the stream. That is what I was doing as I made my way through the fragrance of fresh pine boughs across the bridge and along the path to revisit an exhibition titled "Visions of Home".



... to Finish!

Many thanks to volunteers on both sides of the brook who supplied the labor in constructing the bridge, one hot summer day in July: Steve Parent, Adam Tamsky, Whitney Talcott, Norm Legassie, Doug Smith and David Ward; and for assistance in placing the carrying timbers, Niantic Lumber; and in developing site planning, Wertheimer & Associates as well as Harry Palmbaum.

David Ward

In My Opinion ...

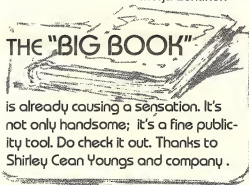
The Summer is already over, and it seems like yesterday was my first day as your new Executive Director! We had two great interns for the Summer, Cecilia and Deirdre Curran, one from Cornell and the other from private school. Both young ladies were interested in pursuing the arts as a career.

We had an excellent roster of applicants apply for elected artist membership. Although competition was stiff among the 20 applicants, there was about a 50% acceptance rate for nomination. The judging was fair and based heavily on an initial "blind" assessment of the quality of the submitted works alone. Of course, all nominees will have to be voted on at the September 19, 1997 Annual Fall Meeting (note the new date).

Our recent Summer Show sold a record number of works. Twenty-five works were sold by the last day of the exhibition.

Weekend Coverage now has a consistent staff: the Executive Committee voted to hire Sally Foster as a weekend Gallery staffer. We hope this will ease up on the burden our volunteers had for locking and unlocking on weekends and provide a good PR person for the weekend visitors. Sally will make copies of bios for anyone requesting them on weekends.

Merja Lehtinen



is already causing a sensation. It's not only handsome; it's a fine publicity tool. Do check it out. Thanks to Shirley Cean Youngs and company.

GALA DAY AT

Midsummer



Most who attended the festivities on Lyme Street would agree that there was plenty of excitement at the Lyme Art Association Gallery. With croquet players holding poses on a court cordoned off

for painting demonstrations, four of our well-known artists held court of their own, capturing the attention of admirers making their way between the Academy of Fine Arts and the Florence Griswold Museum. Nancy Gladwell, Doug Smith, Nelson H. White and Shirley Cean Youngs manned the easels as Cecilia and Deirdre Curren (summer interns), Judith Chapman, Kristin MacCarthy and Megan Surprenant became the subjects of a summer afternoon.

Iced tea, lemonade and strawberry shortcake were offered at our concession stand. The demand kept Merja Lehtinen, Betty Kusche and Nancy Schwartz bustling till late in the day, Rob Braunfield appeared with his ever popular face painting attraction pleasing kids of all ages with his colorful creations. Proceeds were donated to the cause.

Inside the gallery, the constant stream of visitors made it difficult to keep an accurate

count, but we did write up sales of several artworks, answer questions about the Association, the artists, upcoming exhibitions and membership enlistments; suffice to say that we had happily distributed about 150 extra copies of the show catalog just to accommodate those who wanted to keep one for future reference. Thanks to all who helped make this a great day.

David Ward



The Wishlist

Topping the list is "VOLUNTEERS Wanted"; Associate and artist members willing to gallery-sit or take on odd jobs. It's a nice way to meet the public and fellow artists and keep our gallery humming.

Other wishes:

- 486 computer with Windows
- Laser printer
- Fax machine
- Oriental rug (for entrance)
- Wood table
- Conference table
- Wing chairs (for library)
- Elegant chandelier (foyer)

1997

Gallery Calendar

✓ Annual Fall Meeting

Friday, September 19
7 p.m.

Open to all members

5:30 to 6:30

Elected artist members only
for election of new members

✓ 21st Annual Fall Exhibition

September 20 through October 19
Reception: Saturday, September 20,
3 to 5

Receiving: Sunday, September 14,
3 to 4:30

Monday, September 15,
Noon to 4:30

Pick-up: Sunday October 19
3 to 4:30

✓ 1997 Holiday Exhibition

November 29 through December 14
Reception: Saturday, November 29,
3 to 5

Receiving: Sunday, November 23,
3 to 4:30

Pick-up: Sunday, December 14,
3 to 4:30

✓ Annual Christmas Holiday Party and Fund Raiser

Friday, December 12
7 p.m. to 11

In Memory of Roger W. Dennis (1901-1996)

75 years, Roger carried on the American Impressionist tradition, capturing the beauty of nature through colorful interpretations on canvas.

As a longtime member of the Lyme Art Association, Roger felt strongly about the LAA gallery and the preservation of its history. He also worked as a conservator for major museums and, above all, is remembered for his generous spirit.

An Impressionist Garden was recently created and dedicated in memory of Roger. Perhaps the first of its kind, this 'painterly garden' is adjacent to the Griggs Art Center's Artist-in-Residence program where painters, poets and writers from around the world come to live and work. Reminiscent in spirit of Miss Florence Griswold, Sharon Griggs founded the Art Center in 1989 and renovated an old mansion to house her artists in residence. The garden was built with the help of many volunteers, coordinated by Sharon Griggs and Roger's longtime friend and agent, Patricia Shippee. Located at 33 Granite Street in New London, the Roger Dennis Impressionist Garden is open to the public and undoubtedly will inspire artists for many years to come. Additional information and paintings by Roger Dennis can be seen on the web at <http://www.ShippeeFineArt.com>.



Michael Lloyd



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